Third party mediation on Baglihar Project

392. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has been disputing India's programme for implementation of the Baglihar Project;

(b) if so, the rationale, if any, put forward from Pakistan side in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to third party mediation by World Bank representative for settlement of the alleged dispute between India and Pakistan pertaining to this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and rationale behind that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Pakistan has been objecting to the construction of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project by India on the ground that the plant does not confirm to certain provisions specified in the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. India's position is that the Baglihar project has been designed in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Pakistan has, in January 2005, under the provision for "Settlement of Differences and Disputes" referred the case to the World Bank for appointment of a Neutral Expert to resolve the "points of differences" deemed to have arisen.

Although India believes that the reference to the World Bank by Pakistan was premature, it has agreed to cooperate fully and make available whatever technical details the Neutral Expert may require, within the parameters laid down in the Indus Waters Treaty.

Illegal Nepalese occupancy in Bihar

†393. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Nepal has occupied 10 thousand acres of land in Susta region in Bihar and has also killed a number of Biharis;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.